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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/551,815

Applicant(s)

YANG ET AL.

Examiner

SHEREE N. BROWN

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the amendments filed on 12/31/2007.
2. Claims 1-21 are pending and presented for examination. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-12, 14-15, 18 and 20 are amended. Claims 1, 15, 18 and 20 are independent and the remaining claims are dependent.
3. This case has been made FINAL.

Response to Amendment

4. Referring to the 35 USC 112 2nd paragraph rejections, applicants amendments has been acknowledged and accordingly, examiner withdraws the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 1, 5, 18 and 20 recites, "a first local information" and "a second information".

However, the above mentioned newly added limitations are not properly disclosed in applicant's specification and therefore are considered as NEW MATTER.

Claim 1, 5, and 18 recites, "a geographical information". However, the above mentioned newly added limitations are not properly disclosed in applicant's specification and therefore are considered as NEW MATTER.

The dependent claims are rejected for depending upon rejected based claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,735,572 to Landesmann.

Claim 1:

Landesmann teaches a method for providing local information search results in response to a search request input through a communication network by a searcher utilizing a keyword ["elements in the search criteria, such as high value, consumer goods entities i.e. purchases of luxury cars ... " See Abstract & Column 24, Lines 10-15 wherein "elements in the search criteria" is the same as "keywords"], the method comprising the steps of:

- Receiving a first local information comprising at least a geographical information of the searcher for searching related to the searcher [See Figure

3A, Item 314 & Column 13, Lines 60-67 & Column 14, Lines 1-20 & Column 41, Lines 32-34];

- maintaining the first local information for searching related to the searcher [See Figure 3A, Item 314 & Column 13, Lines 60-67 & Column 14, Lines 1-20];
- receiving a second local information comprising at least a geographical information of one or more of search items for searching related to the searcher [See Figure 3A, Item 314 & Column 13, Lines 60-67 & Column 14, Lines 1-20 & Column 41, Lines 32-34];
- maintaining the second local information for searching related to the searcher [See Figure 3A, Item 314 & Column 13, Lines 60-67 & Column 14, Lines 1-20];
- maintaining a database including the search items related to a network information provider, wherein some of the search items are related to the keyword of the searcher [(i.e. search criteria) See Figure 3A, Item 320 & Column 20, Lines 7-45];
- receiving the search request from the searcher utilizing a keyword ["elements in the search criteria, such as high value, consumer goods entities i.e. purchases of luxury cars ...
" See Column 5, Lines 42-47 & Column 24, Lines 10-15 wherein "elements in the search criteria" is the same as "keywords"];
- identifying at least more than one search item related to the keyword that meets the search request and selecting the search item related to the second

- local information matched to the first local information for searching, among the identified search items [See Figure 3A, Item 320 & Column 20, Lines 7-45];
- and arranging at least a part of the search items according to a predetermined search item arranging method in arranging the selected search items [(i.e. Sequence of item of content" See Figure 6, Item 620 & column 5, Lines 54-65].

Claim 2:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of arranging at least a part of the search items according to the predetermined search item arranging method comprises the step of arranging the selected search item preferentially [See Figure 6, Item 620 & column 5, Lines 54-65].

Claim 3:

Landesmann teaches wherein the second local information matched to the first local information for searching comprises the second local information that is in agreement with the first local information for searching or the second local information that is closely related to the first local information for searching [See Figure 3A, Item 320 & Column 20, Lines 7-45].

Claim 4:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of arranging at least a part of the search items according to the predetermined search item arranging method, is to preferentially arrange the search item related to the second local information that is in agreement with the first local information for searching and subsequently arrange the

search item related to the second local information closely related to the first local information for searching [See Figure 6, Item 620 & column 5, Lines 54-65].

Claim 5:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of maintaining the first local information for searching related to the searcher comprises the step of storing the first local information for searching as search configuration setting information of the searcher, and the step of receiving the search request from the searcher comprises the step of obtaining the first local information for searching from the stored search configuration setting information [See Figure 3A, Item 314 & Column 13, Lines 60-67 & Column 14, Lines 1-20];

Claim 6:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of storing the information as the search configuration setting information of the searcher and the step of receiving the search request from the searcher comprise a log-in procedure by the searcher [See Column 15, Lines 15-20].

Claim 7:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of maintaining the first local information for searching related to the searcher comprises the step of storing the first local information for searching received from the searcher, in form of a cookie file at a searcher's terminal, and the step of receiving the search request from the searcher comprises the step of accessing to the cookie file and obtaining the first local

information for searching [See Figure 5, Item 540].

Claim 8:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of maintaining the first local information for searching related to the searcher comprises the step of installing a client program at a searcher's terminal, and the step of receiving the search request from the searcher comprises the step of receiving the first local information for searching using the client program installed in the searcher's terminal [See Column 30, Lines 20-30].

Claim 9:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of maintaining the database includes the step of receiving the second local information related to the network information provider from the network information provider [See Figure 1, Item 20 & Column 12, Lines 47-67].

Claim 10:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of maintaining the database includes the step of extracting the second local information related to the network information provider from a website of the network information provider [See Figure 1, Item 20, Figure 3A, Item 320 & Column 12, Lines 47-67 & Column 20, Lines 7-45].

Claim 11:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of maintaining the database includes the step of extracting the second local information related to the network information provider from configuration setting information of the network information provider [See Figure

1, Item 20, Figure 3A, Item 320 & Column 12, Lines 47-67 & Column 20, Lines 7-45].

Claim 12:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of extracting the second local information related to the network information provider comprises the steps of:

- maintaining a telephone exchange number and the second local information regarding the telephone exchange number, for a telephone number database [See Column 11, Lines 54-67];
- obtaining information of the telephone exchange number, in which the configuration setting information includes the telephone exchange number of the network information provider [See Column 11, Lines 54-67];
- and identifying the second local information that is in agreement with information of the telephone exchange number of the network information provider with reference to the telephone number database [See Column 11, Lines 54-67].

Claim 13:

Landesmann teaches wherein the predetermined search item arranging [(i.e. Sequence of item of content" See Figure 6, Item 620 & column 5, Lines 54-65] method is one among a keyword banner, knowledge search results, a sponsor link, a category, and a plus site [Column 5, Lines 54-65 & Column 6, Lines 8-18 & Column 19, Lines 50-60].

Claim 14:

Landesmann teaches wherein the step of maintaining the database includes the step of receiving network information from the network information provider to register the network information at a database, and relating the registered network information to a plurality of the search items [See Figure 1, Item 20 & Column 12, Lines 47-67].

Claim 15:

- Claim 15 is similar to claim 1 and is therefore rejected on the same basis as claim 1.

Claim 16:

Landesmann teaches further comprising the steps of: determining a predetermined advertisement charge for the local advertisement, wherein the advertisement charge is differently determined depending on the local information related to the local advertisement [See Figure 12, Item(s) 1210, 1220 & 1230 and Column 31. Lines 50-67 & Column 32, Lines 5-67 & Column 33, Lines 10-35].

Claim 17:

Landesmann teaches further comprising the steps of: determining a predetermined advertisement charge for the local advertisement, wherein the advertisement charge is determined with consideration of frequency of page view or reference of the selected search item [See Figure 12, Item(s) 1210, 1220 & 1230 and Column 31. Lines 50-67 & Column 32, Lines 5-67 & Column 33, Lines 10-35].

Claim 18:

- Claim 18 is similar to claim 1 and is therefore rejected on the same basis as claim 1.

Claim 19:

Landesmann teaches wherein the local keyword is differently selected depending on region with consideration of characteristics of the region [“(geographical regions”) See Column 13, Lines 30-45].

Claim 20:

- Claim 20 is similar to claim 1 and is therefore rejected on the same basis as claim 1.

Claim 21:

Landesmann teaches a computer-readable recording medium, in which a program for implementing a method according to any of the preceding claims 1 through 19 in a computer, is recorded [See Figure 2, Item 32].

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 12/31/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant Argument #1:

Applicant argued on page 16 of 20, "Landesmann does not teach every limitation of claim 1 as amended. Landesmann is directed to implementation of a method of buyer-driven targeting of purchasing entities which allows retailers to gain access to information of the purchasing habits of potential customers, not a method of refining Internet search results for a searcher based on local information relating to said searcher (Landesmann col. 1, lines 17-19)".

Examiner's Response to Argument #1:

Examiner is not persuaded. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a method of refining Internet search results for a searcher based on local information relating to said searcher) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Nonetheless, examiner maintains Landesmann meets the claim limitations of applicant claimed invention (See the rejection of claim 1 for more details). Therefore, examiner maintains the rejection.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

10. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheree N. Brown whose telephone number is (571) 272-4229. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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March 24, 2008

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